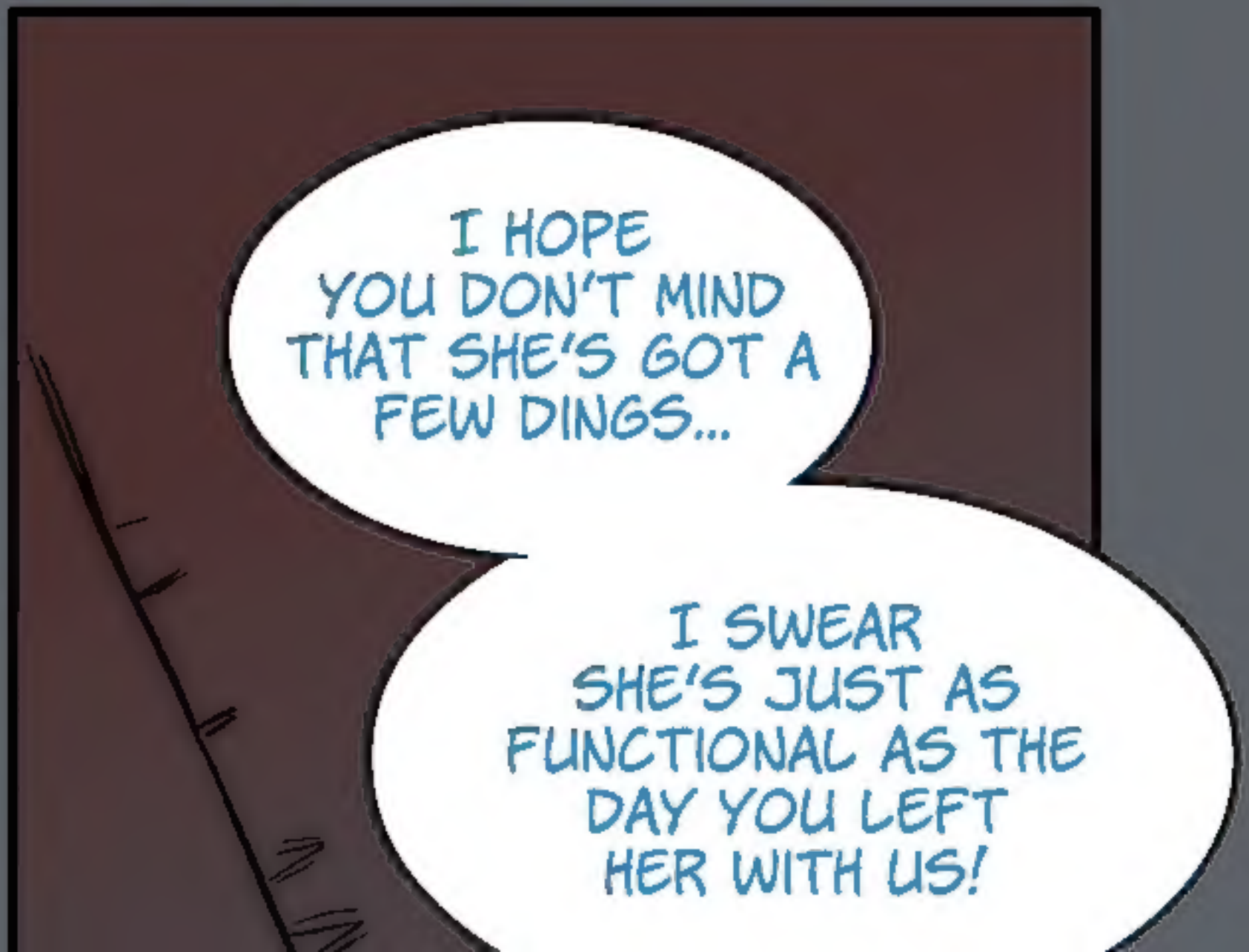
TAK
TAK

TAK
IT'S QUIET.
TAK
TAK
TAK

WE MUST HAVE LOST THE MARAUDERS.

THEY'RE PROBABLY ALREADY PLAYING THEIR SICK GAMES WITH YOUR TEAM MATES.

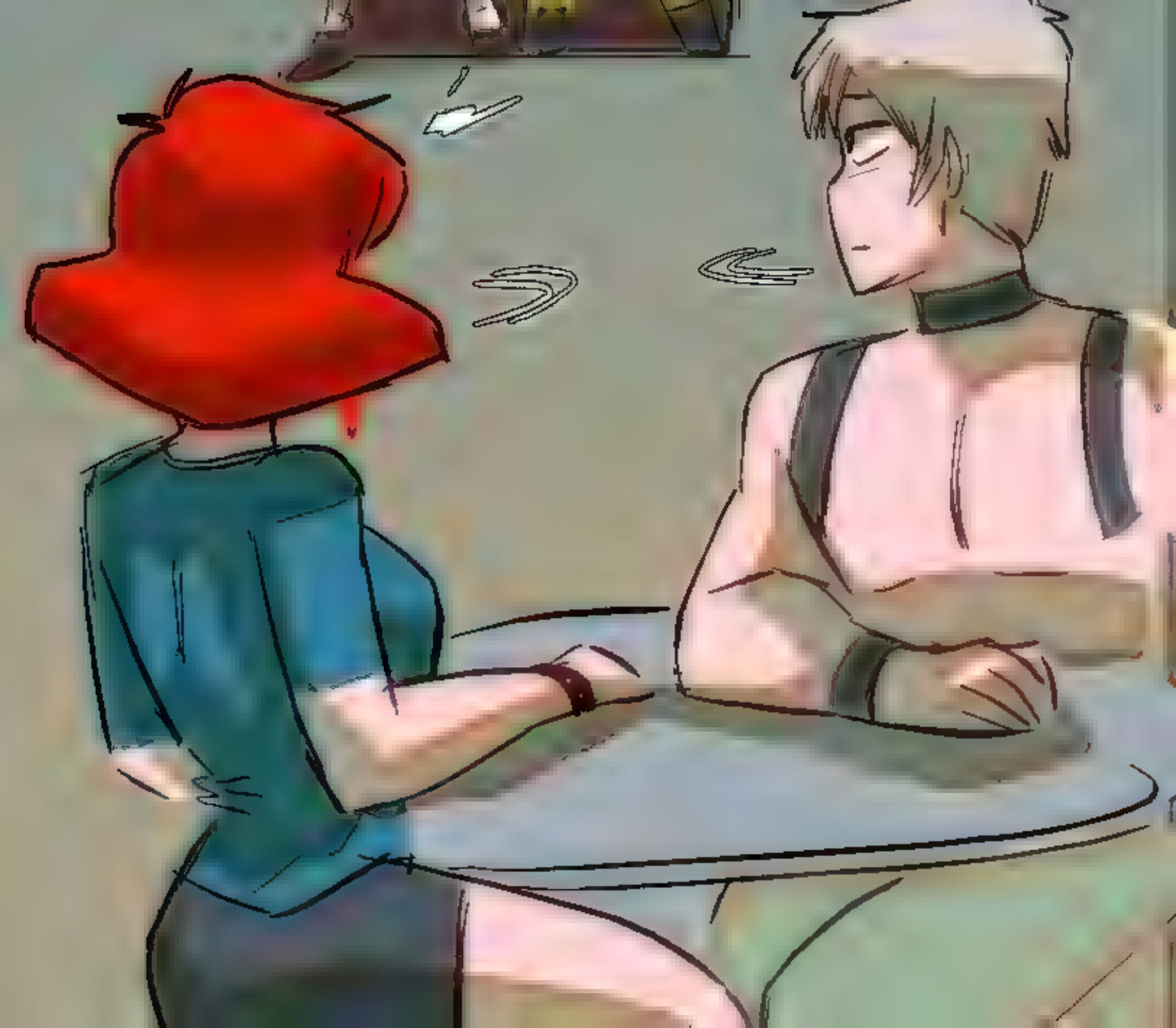

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT SHE'S GOT A FEW DINGS...
I SWEAR SHE'S JUST AS FUNCTIONAL AS THE DAY YOU LEFT HER WITH US!

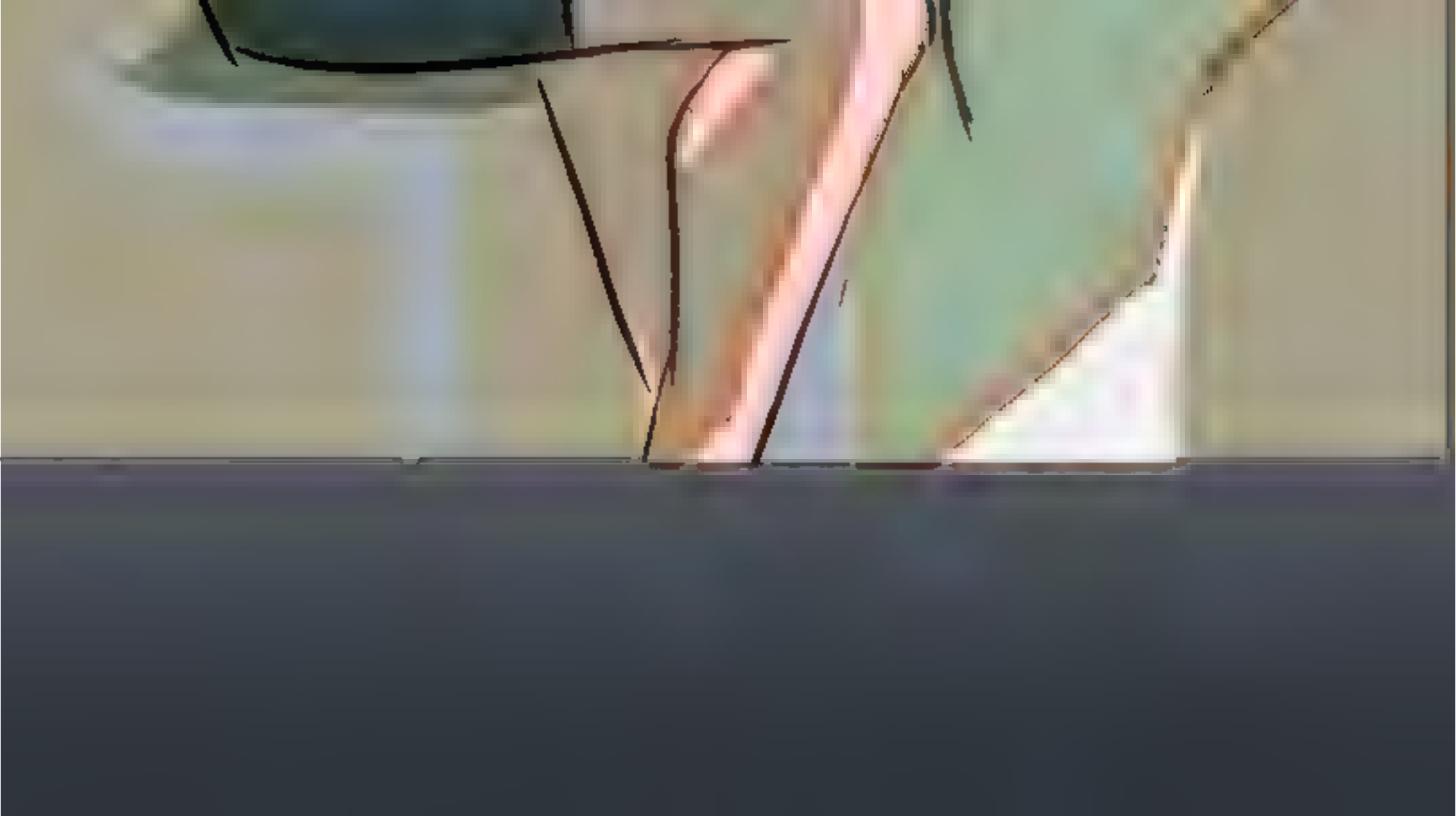
TAK
TAK
UH... "SHE"?
TAK
THE SHIP!
TAK

TAK

JUST WAIT UNTIL WE GET INSIDE...
CRANK
CRANK

I'LL EXPLAIN...
EVERYTHING...?
OPEN



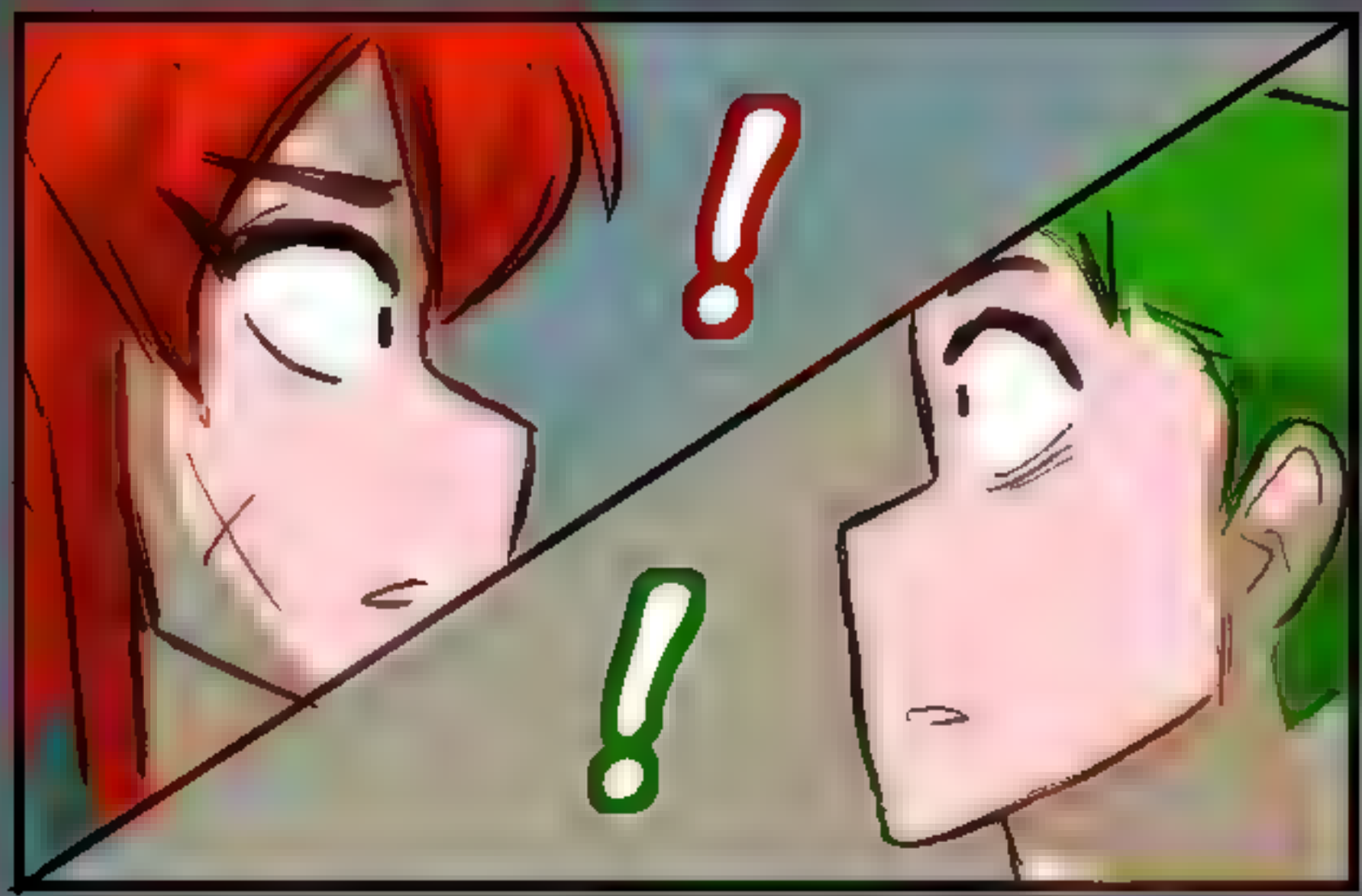


ROOM of SWORDS

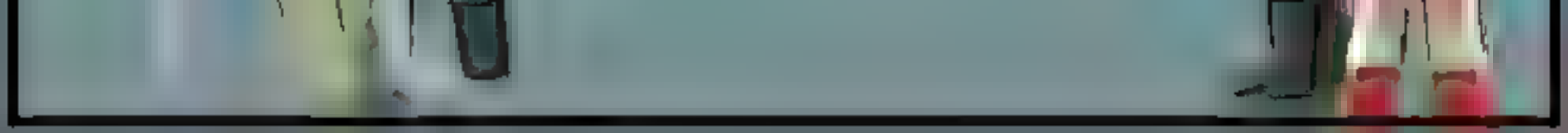
STORY/ART TOONIMATED

CHAPTER 86

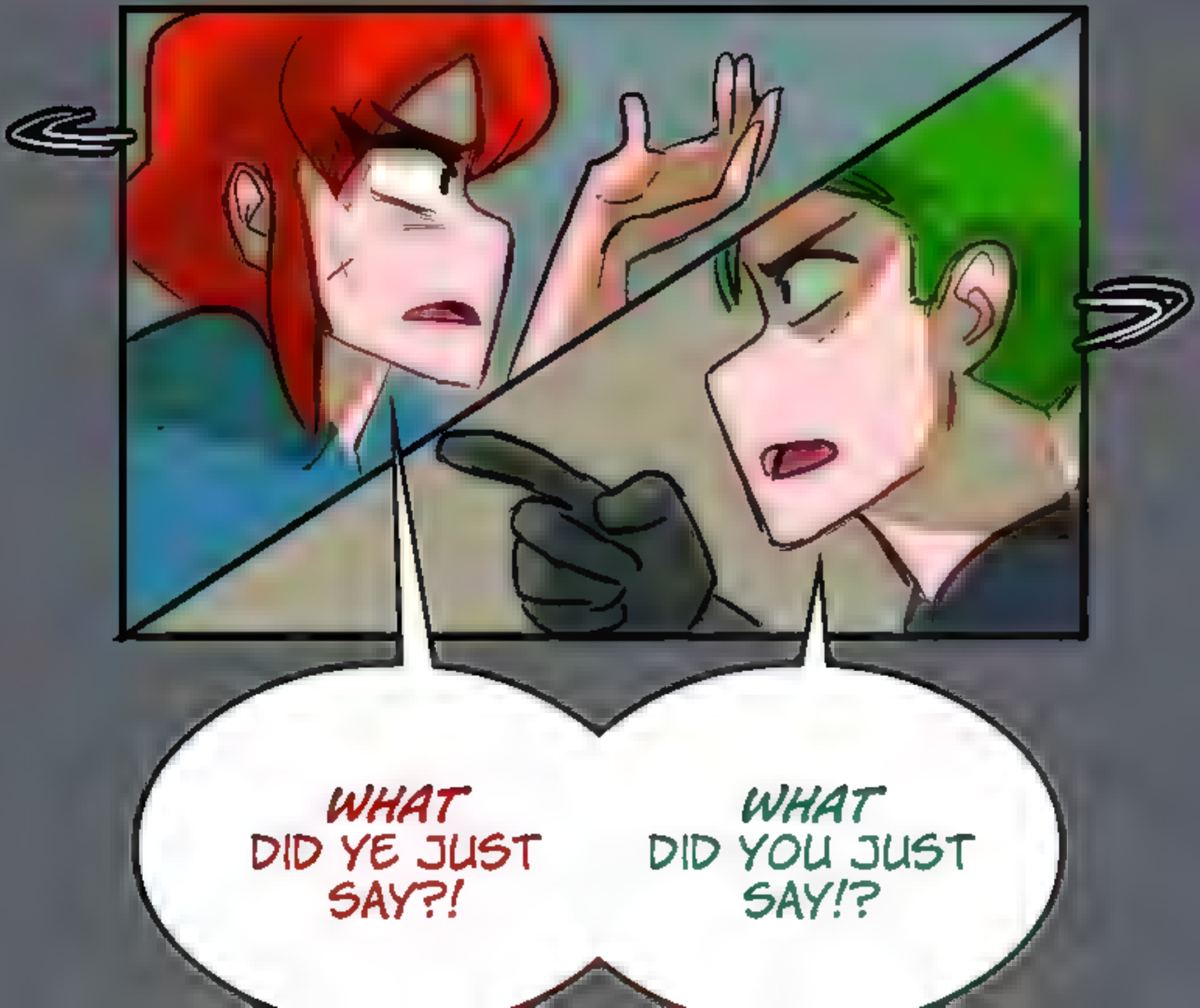
" SOMEHOW I CAME TO REALIZE "



TENSE



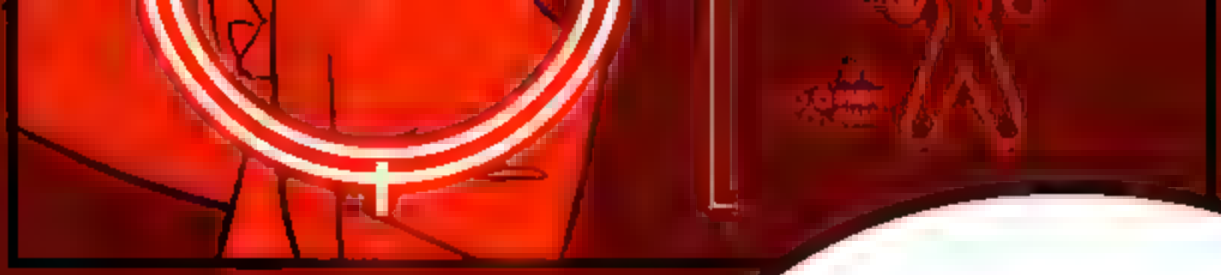
YOU BROUGHT HIM?
YOU BROUGHT HER?


WHAT DID YE JUST SAY?!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?

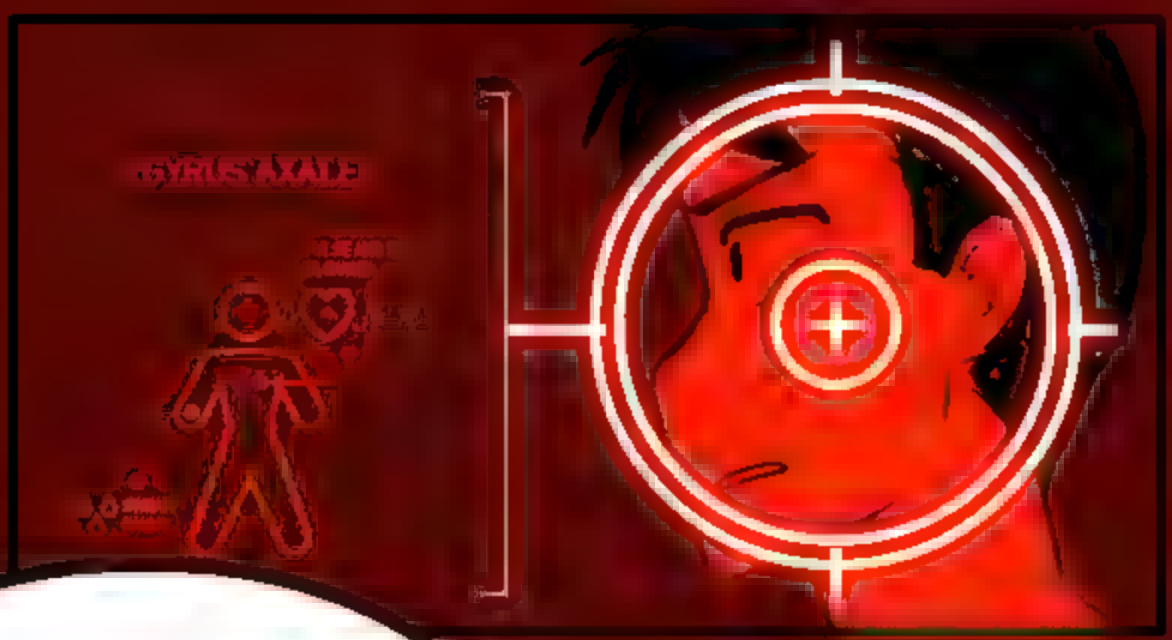
KNOX.
WHAT THE HELL
IS GOING ON
HERE?

HMM.

VICTORIA GROVE



SEEING EACHOTHER APPEARS TO HAVE TRIGGERED A PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSE.



HEATED SKIN, RAPID HEART RATE, ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE, SWEATY PALMS...

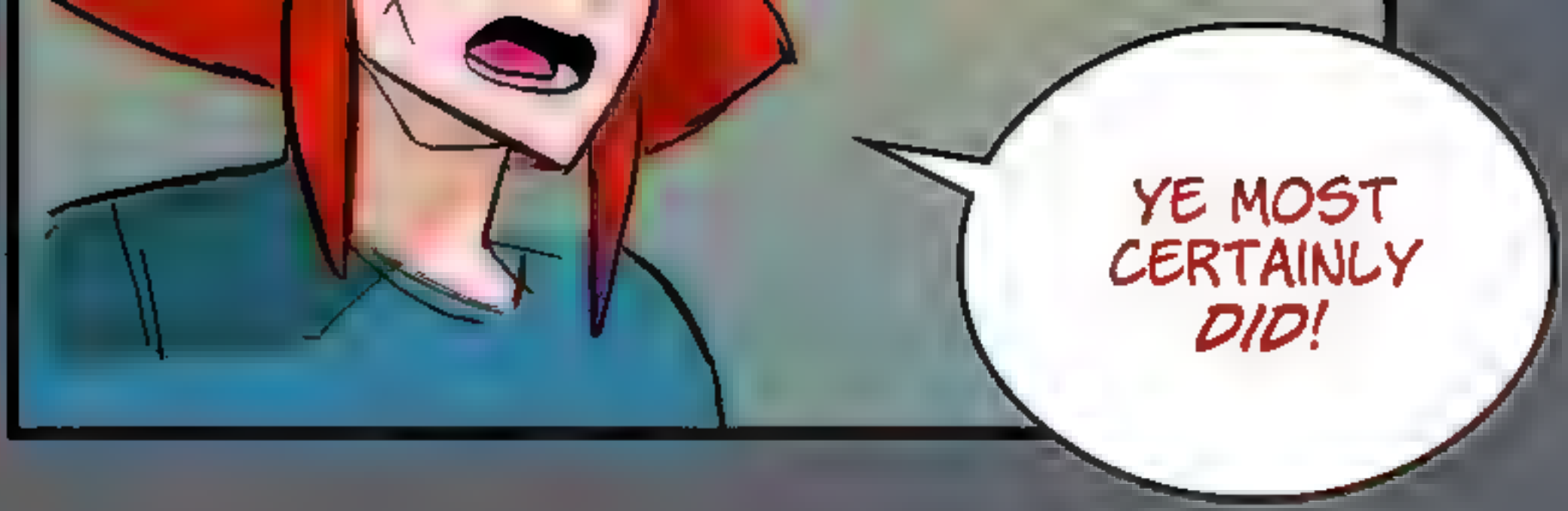
CONCLUSION:
THEY ARE
IN LOVE.

OR POSSIBLY...
VERY ANGRY.

NO, WHAT
I MEAN IS *WHAT*
IS *SHE* DOING
HERE?!

OH. SHE SAID YOU SENT HER.

WHAT?! I DID NO SUCH THING!


YE MOST CERTAINLY DID!

IN THE TUNNELS, YE CREATED A DIVERSION THAT AIDED ME IN ESCAPING THAT CREATURE.

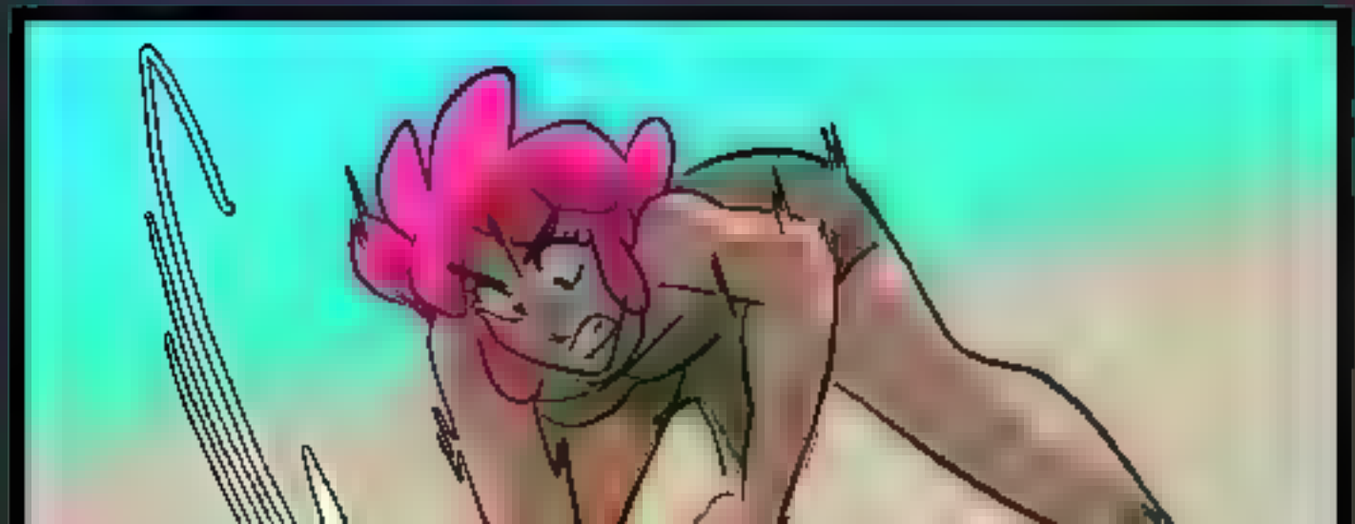
WHEN WE PARTED, YE DID SAY THAT YE WOULD SEE ME "LATER".
NATURALLY, I ASSUMED YE MUST KNOW OF SOME SAFE HAVEN WHENCE WE COULD RECONVENE.

AND I FOLLOWED THY TRAIL OF FOOT STEPS STRAIGHT TO THIS VESSEL!

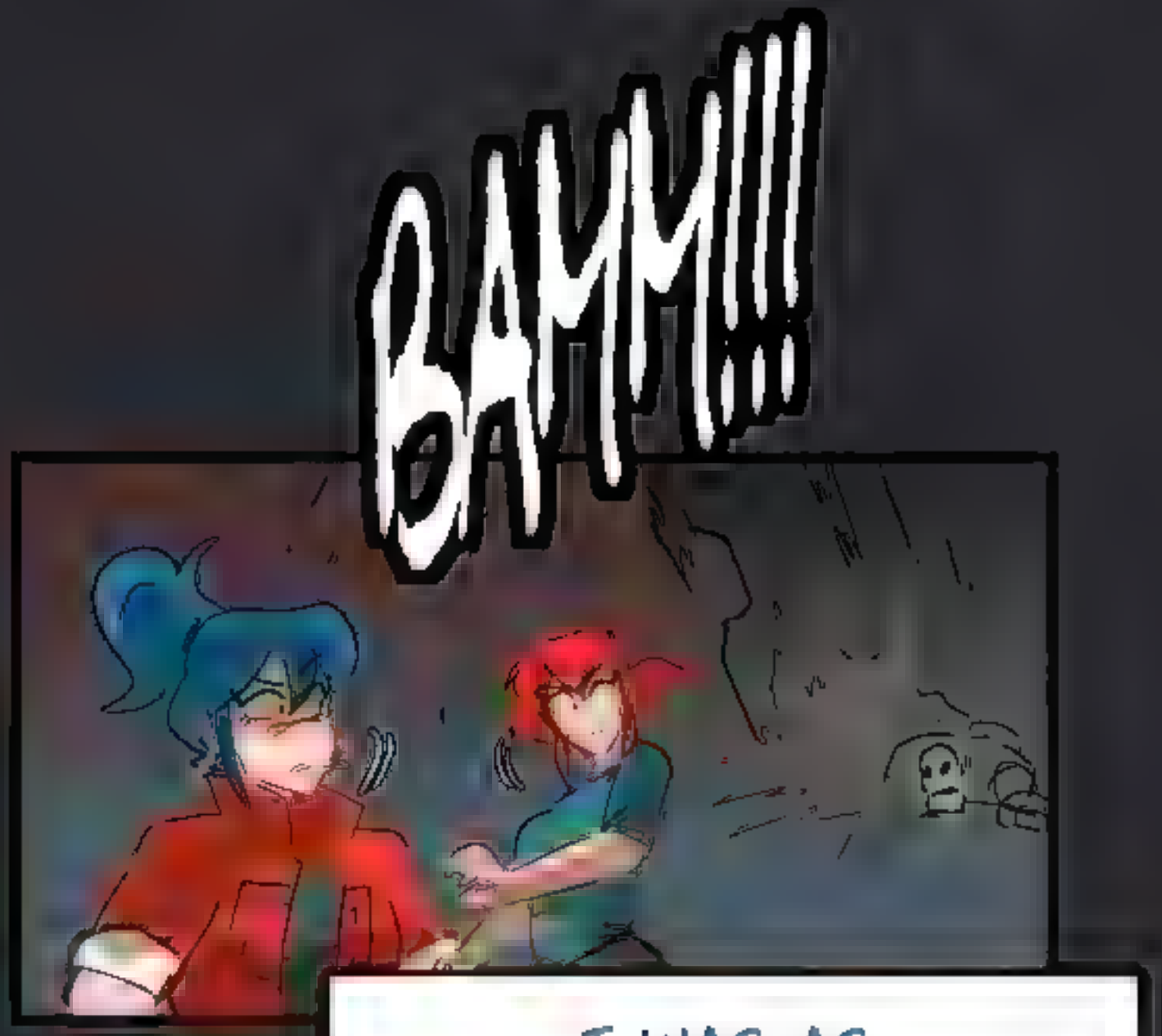
NO, NO,
YOU GOT
IT ALL WRONG,
SWEETIE.

I WAS NAVIGATING THE TUNNELS, LOOKING FOR A SAFE WAY UP TO THE SURFACE.

I SAW YOU WITH THE MARAUDER, BUT I HAD NO INTENTION OF SAVING YOU.



THEN THERE WAS SOME KIND OF EXPLOSION FROM ABOVE.



I WAS AS SHOCKED AS YOU WHEN THE TUNNEL COLLAPSED ON THE MARUADER.

SIT

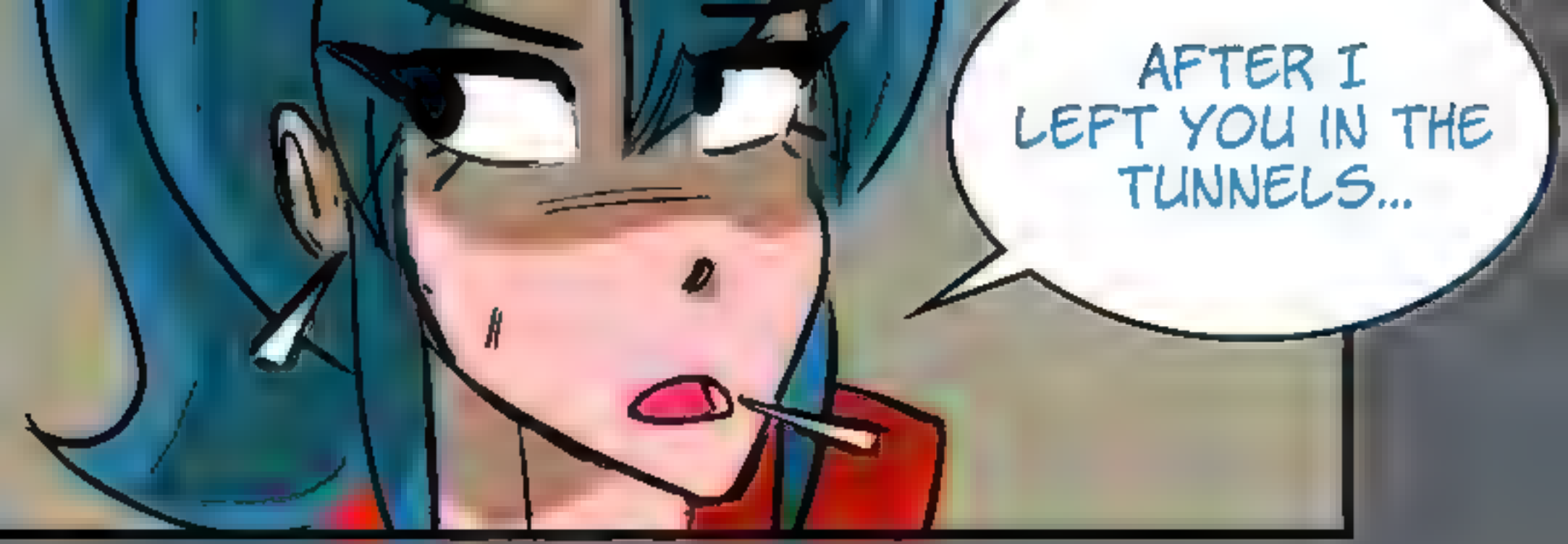
SURE, I SAID "SEE YA LATER" BUT THAT'S JUST AN EXPRESSION!

I FIGURED ANOTHER MARAUDER WOULD GET YOU AS SOON AS I LEFT! I THOUGHT I WAS SAYING GOODBYE FOR GOOD!

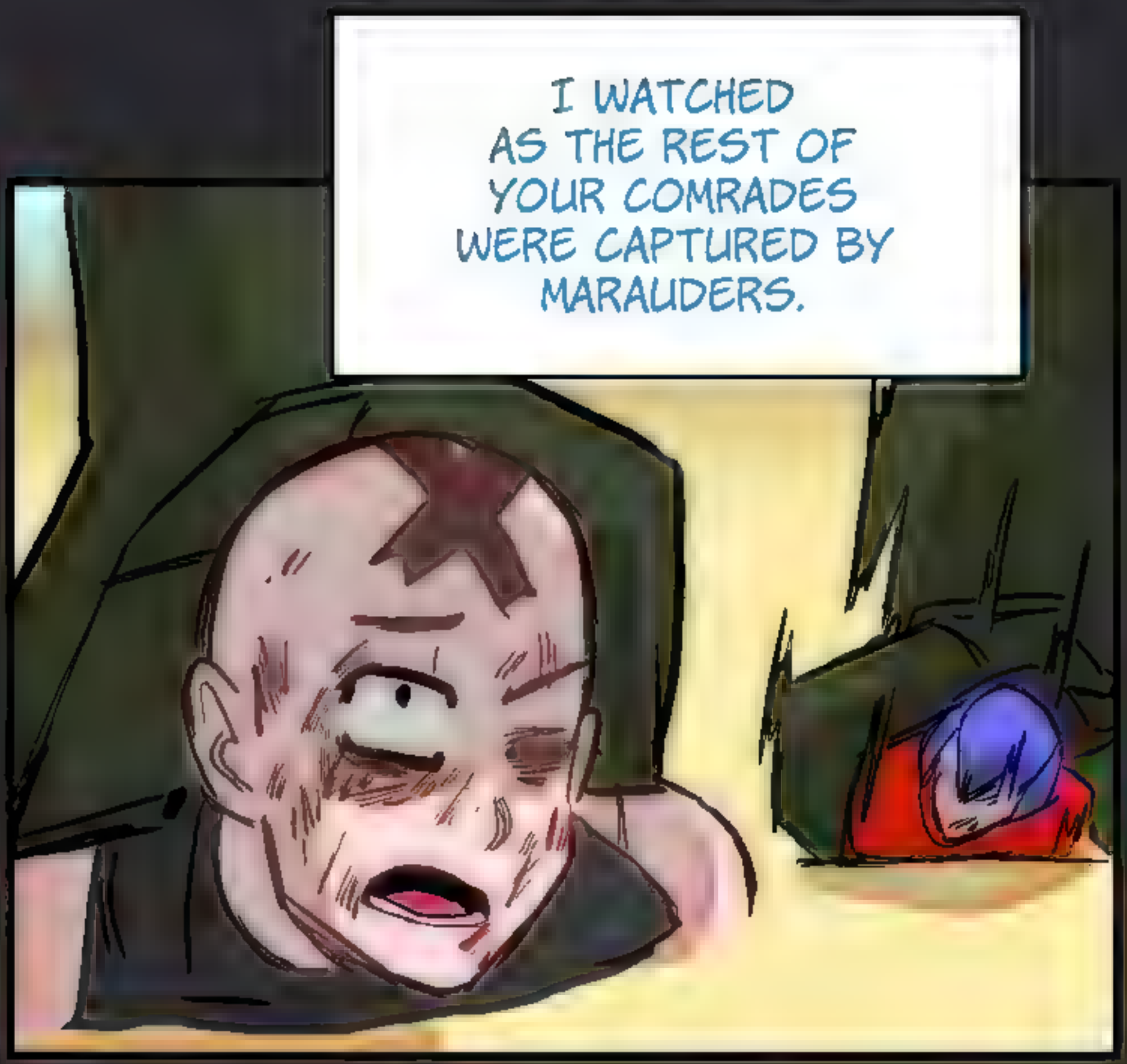
SO
YE WOULD
PREFER IF I WERE
CAPTURED?!

WELL,
IT'S TOO LATE
NOW... YOU'RE
ALREADY
HERE.
...

HOW THEN DID GYRUS END UP HERE AS WELL?


AFTER I LEFT YOU IN THE TUNNELS...

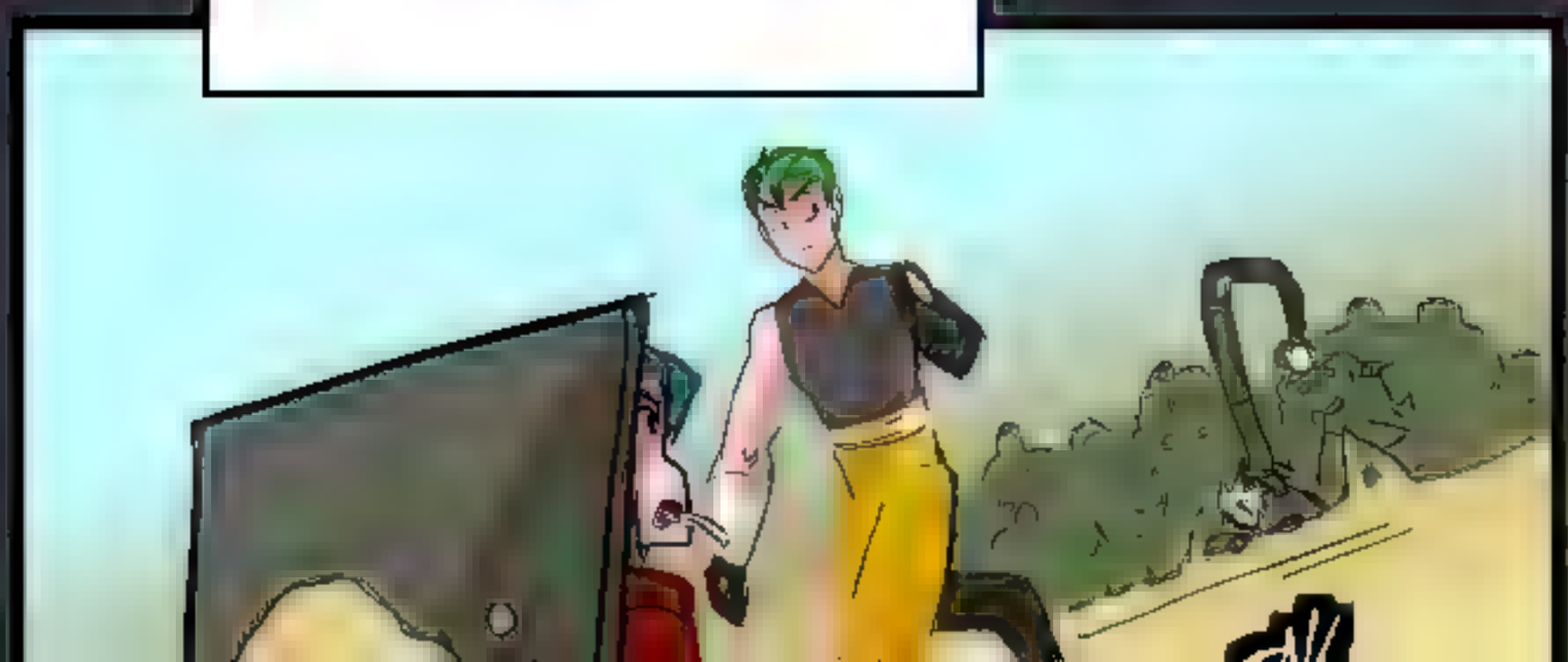
I SNUCK UP TO THE SURFACE.

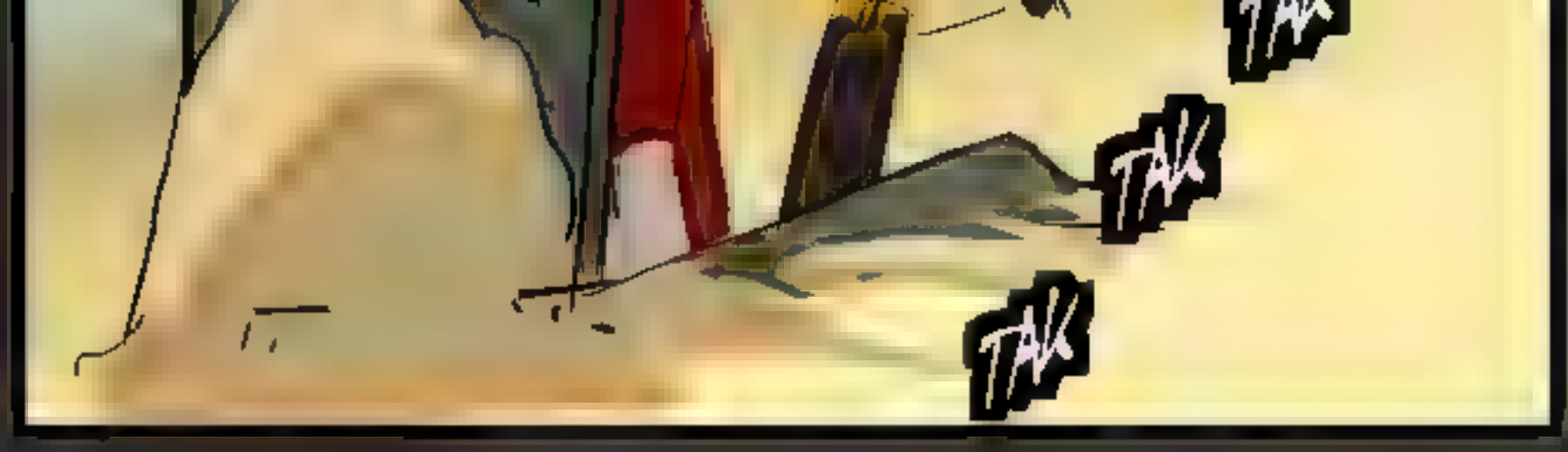

I WATCHED AS THE REST OF YOUR COMRADES WERE CAPTURED BY MARAUDERS.

WHILE
THEY WERE
DISTRACTED...

I CALLED OUT TO GYRUS...

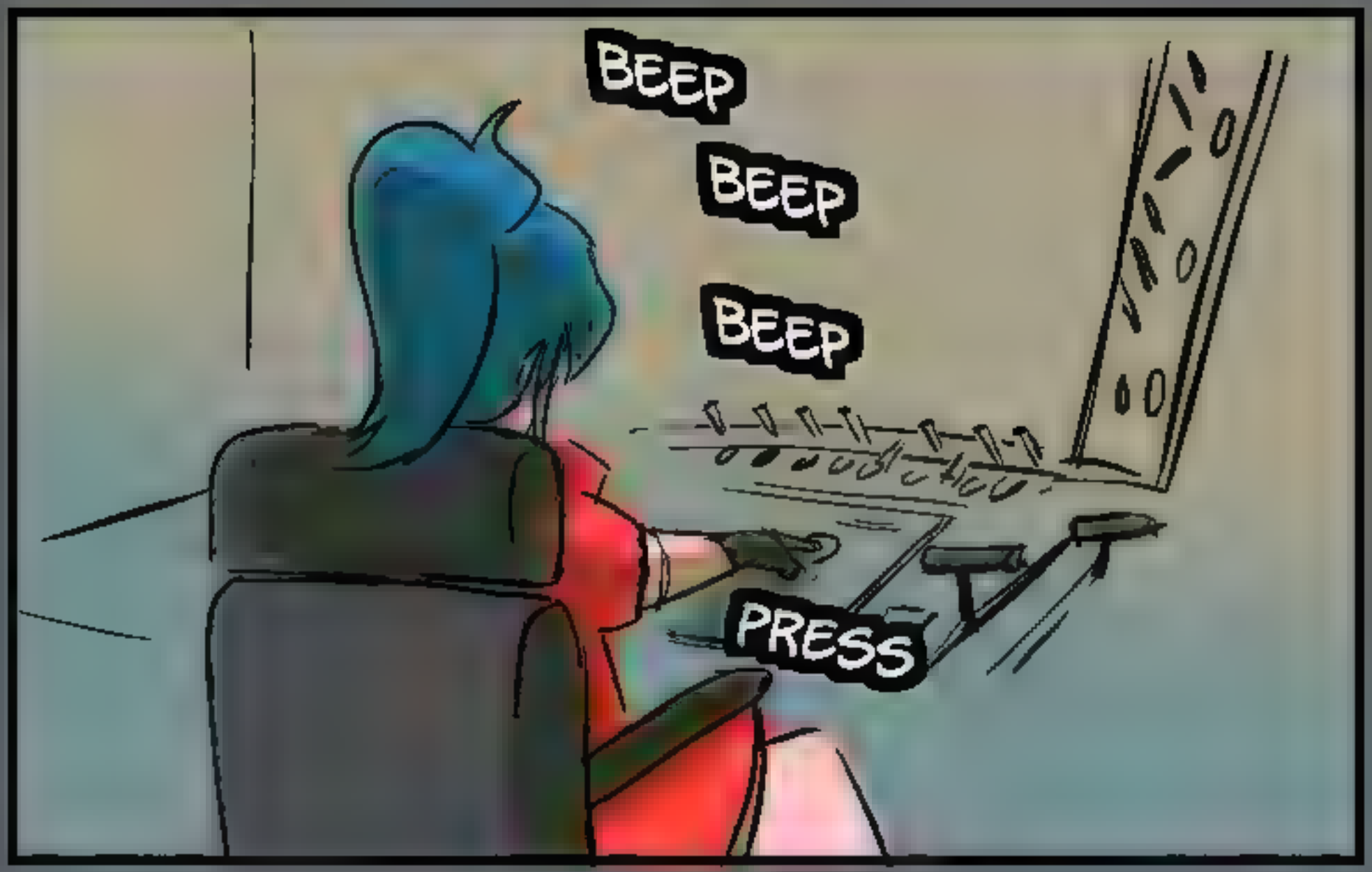
AND WE MADE A QUICK RETREAT.

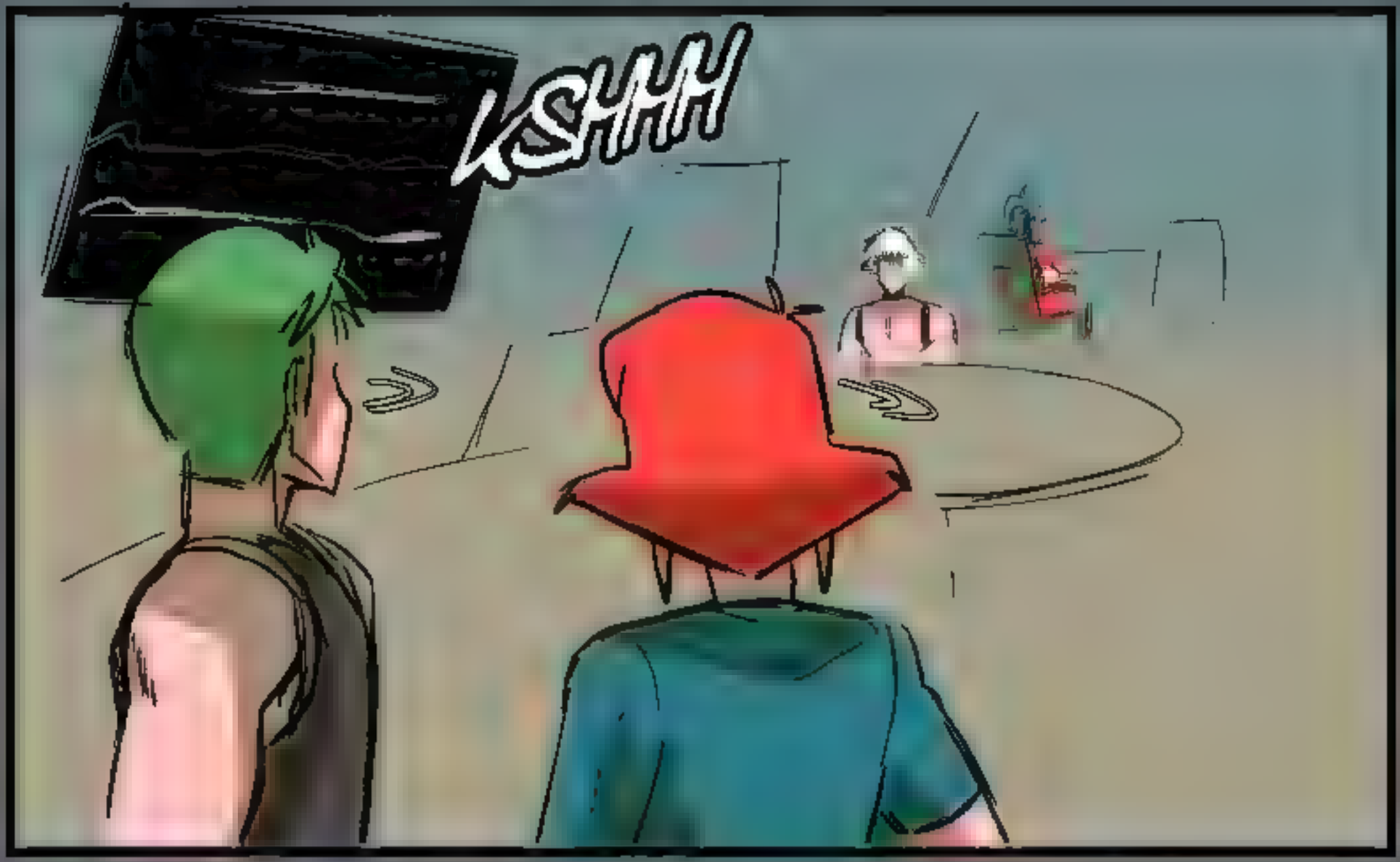



TAK
TAK
TAK

THEN WHAT HAS BECOME OF EVERYONE ELSE?!

WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW...


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
PRESS


KSHHH

what
an exciting
development,
computers and
gentlebots!

They're sending an extremely low level fighter to battle Volatoid!

Wow, Volatoid actually looks offended!

And remember we confiscated all of their Boss Swords!

This is going to be a massacre!

SYLVIA!!
THEY ARE FORCING HER TO FIGHT FOR SPORT!?

AND THEIR BOSS SWORDS WERE TAKEN FROM THEM!

SIGH
YUP, THEY PROBABLY DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

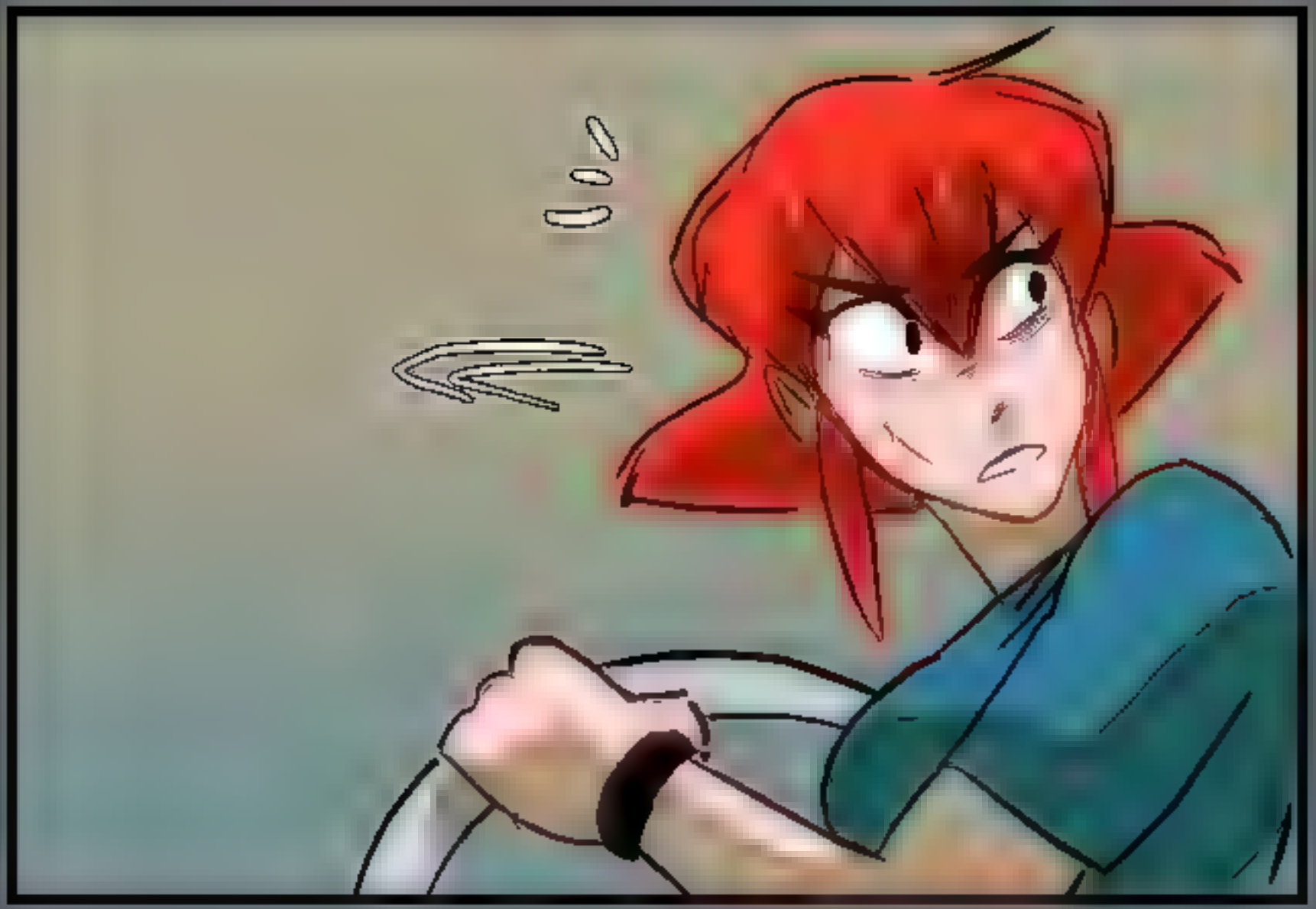
WE CAN NOT ABANDON THEM LIKE THIS!

YE
MUST TAKE
US BACK.

SORRY, SWEETIE, NOT UNLESS WE GET THE ORDERS.

"ORDERS"?
WHOSE ORDERS?!

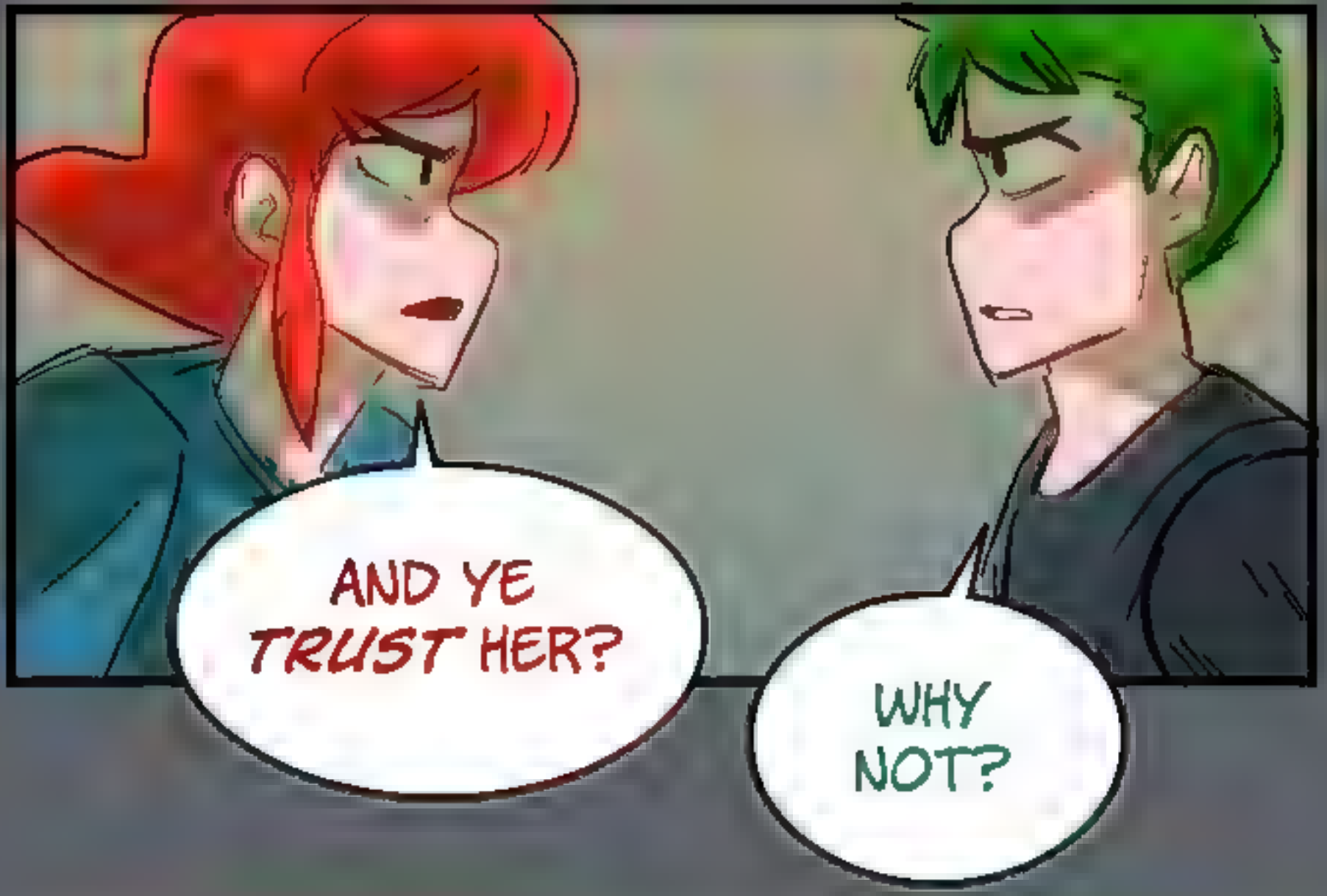
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
YOU'RE STANDIN' NEXT TO HIM.



GYRUS?!

WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER, BUT...
I GUESS I KNEW THEM BEFORE THE INCIDENT.


AND YE TRUST HER?
WHY NOT?

SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH HER, GYRUS.
SHE IS WILLING TO LET PEOPLE DIE JUST TO GET TO YOU.

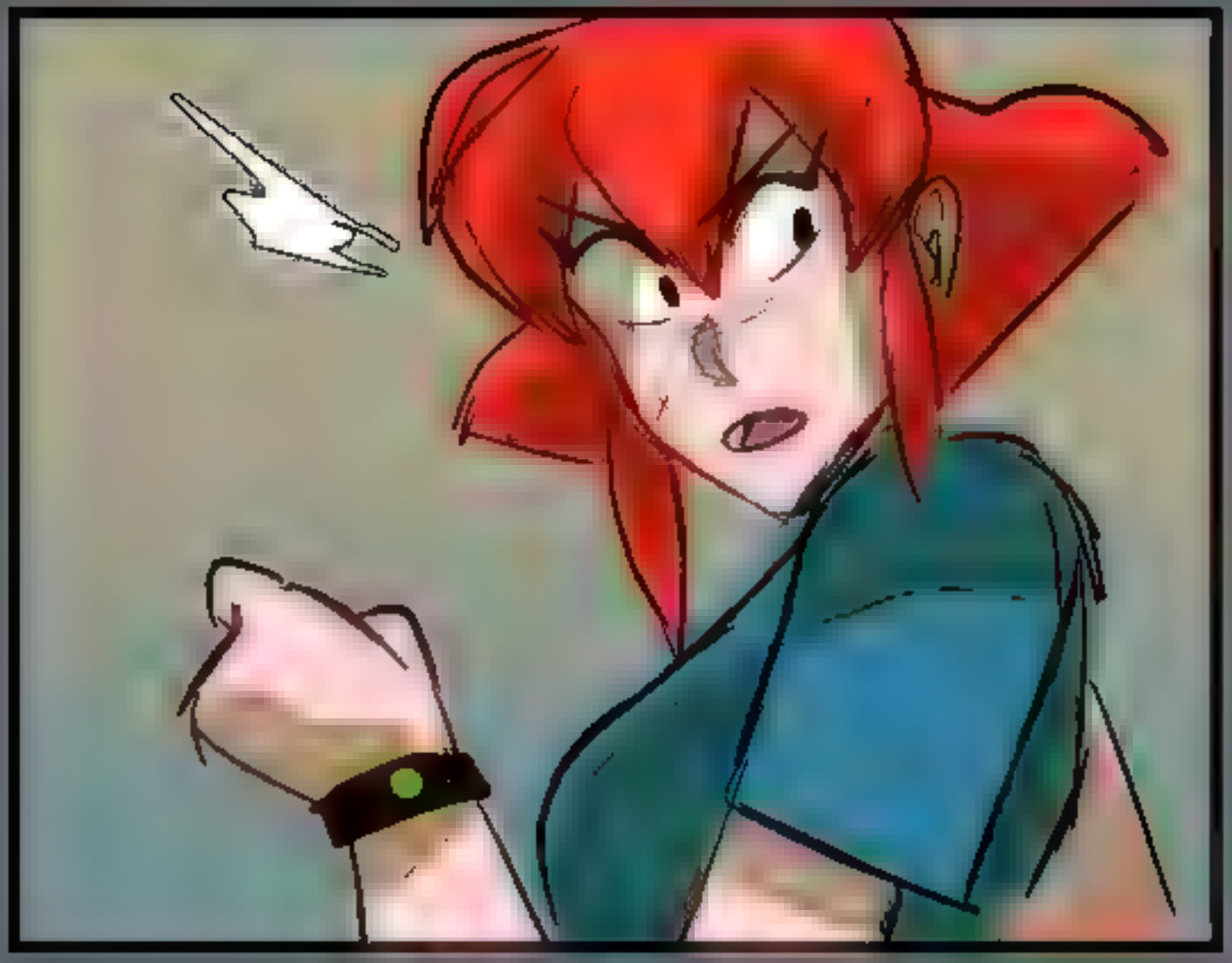
MAYBE
I DON'T MIND
SOMEONE PRIORITIZING
MY WELL-BEING
FOR A CHANGE.

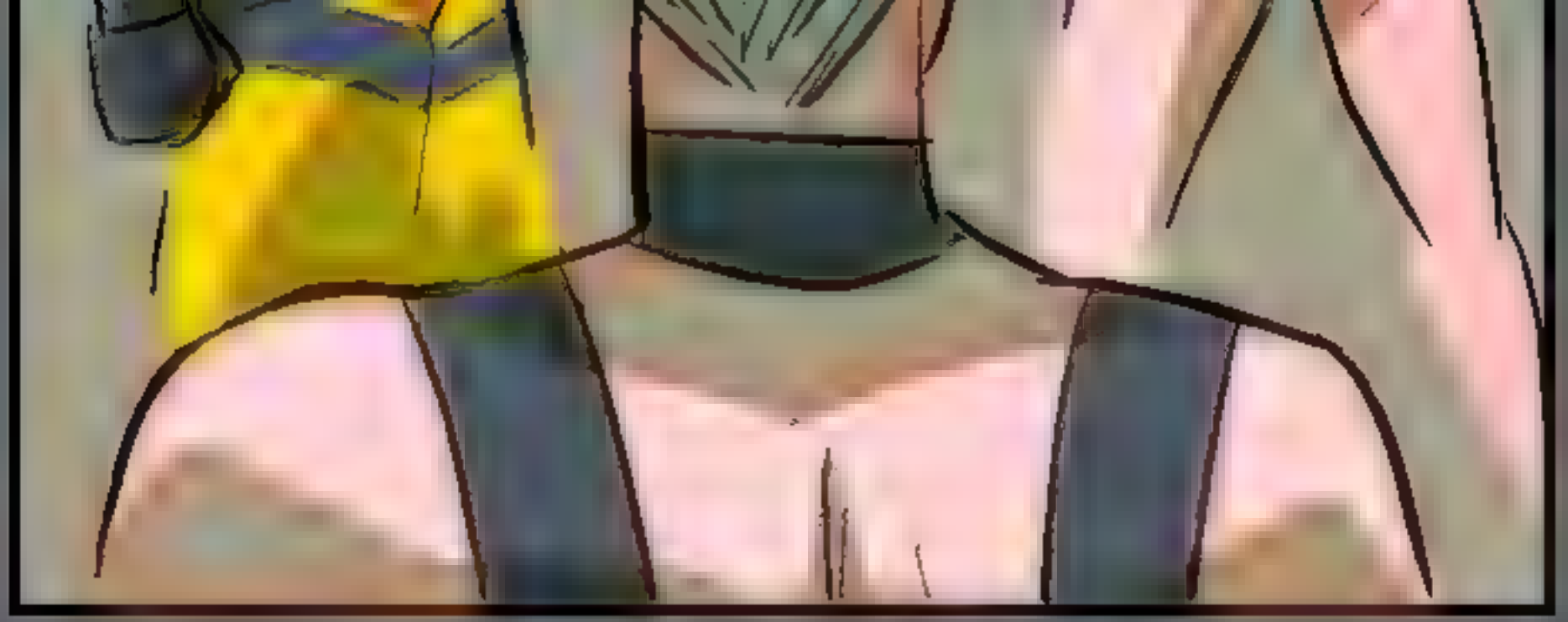
YE CAN NOT SERIOUSLY BE THINKING OF LEAVING OUR ALLIES TO DIE WHILE YE HIDE AWAY ON A BOAT!

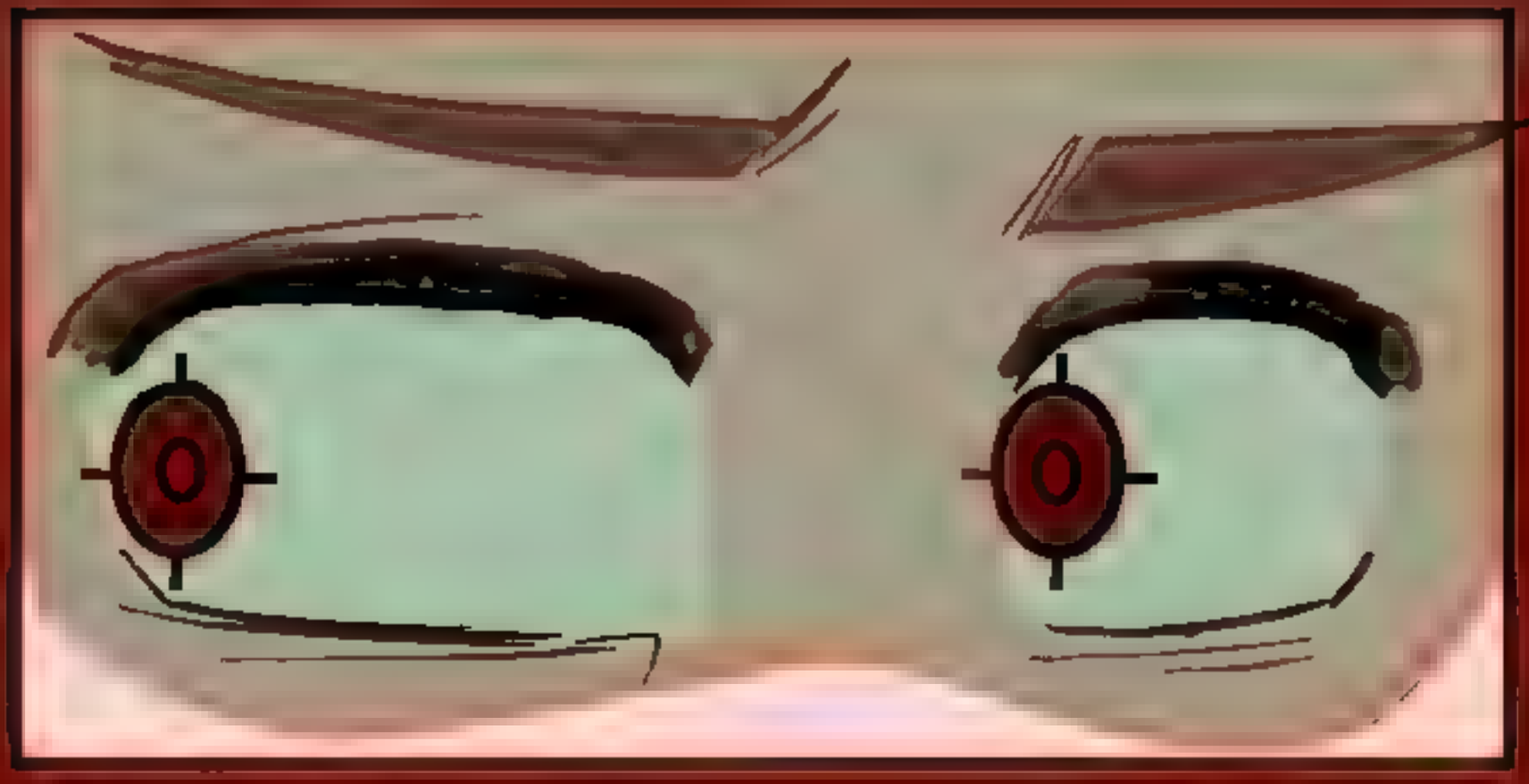
WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, SOME FAIRYTALE?
IT'S NOT UP TO YOU TO SAVE EVERYONE!

IS THAT WHAT YE SAY TO MAKE THYSELF FEEL BETTER ABOUT TURNING THY BACK ON PEOPLE?

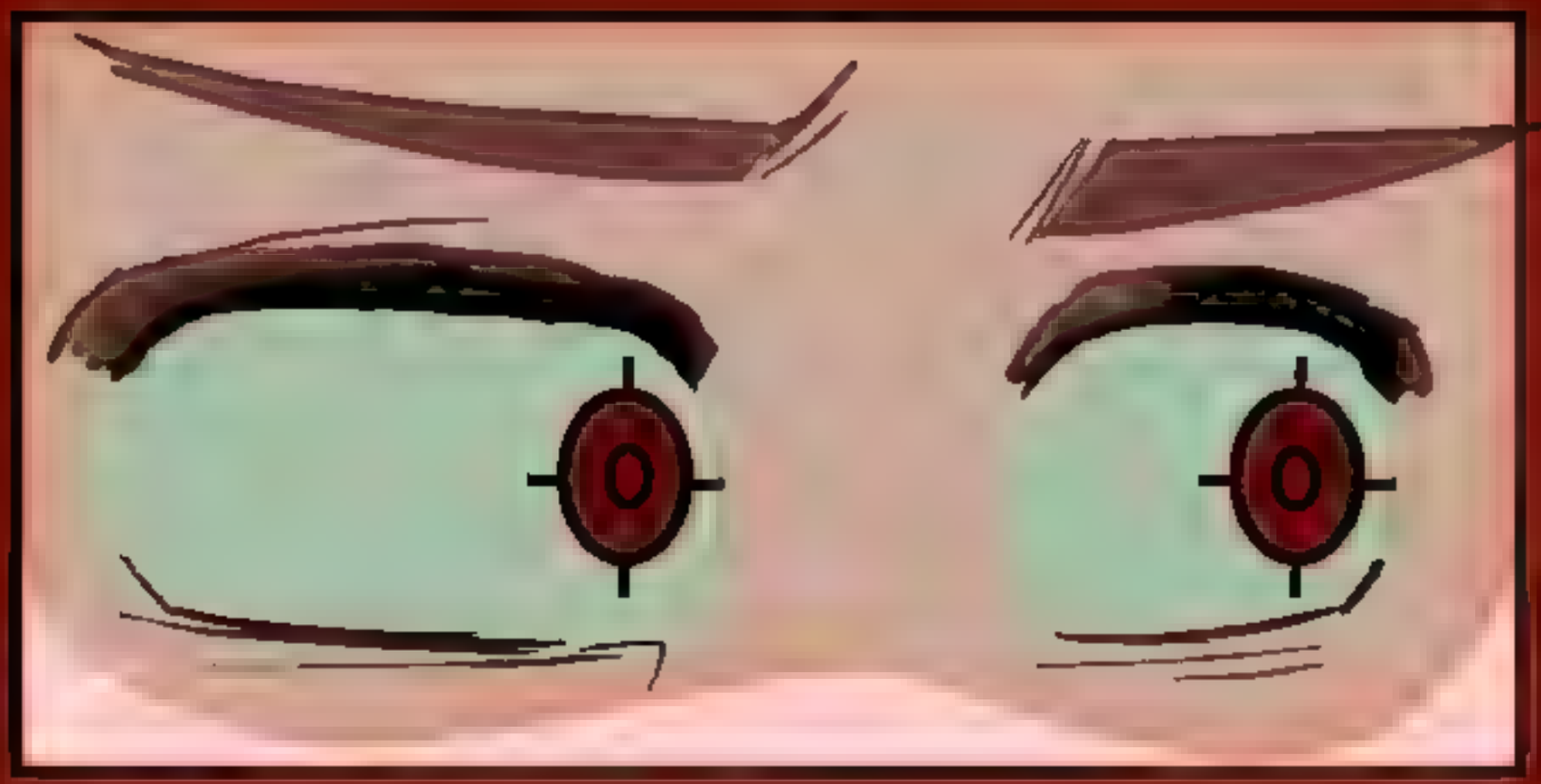
STOP STALLING AND GIVE THE ORDER TO RETURN US TO OUR FRIENDS!
HOW ABOUT THIS?
WE'LL HELP OUR "FRIENDS" IF YOU ALL STOP WEARING THOSE WRIST BANDS.



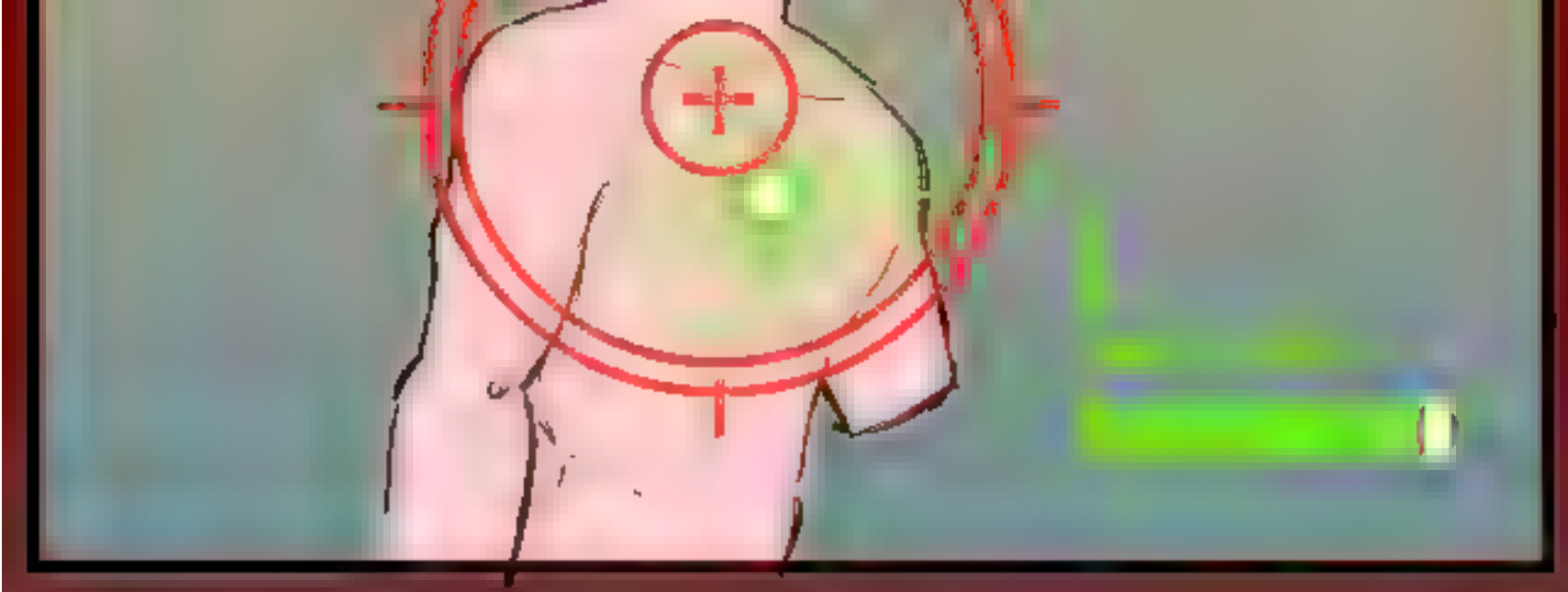




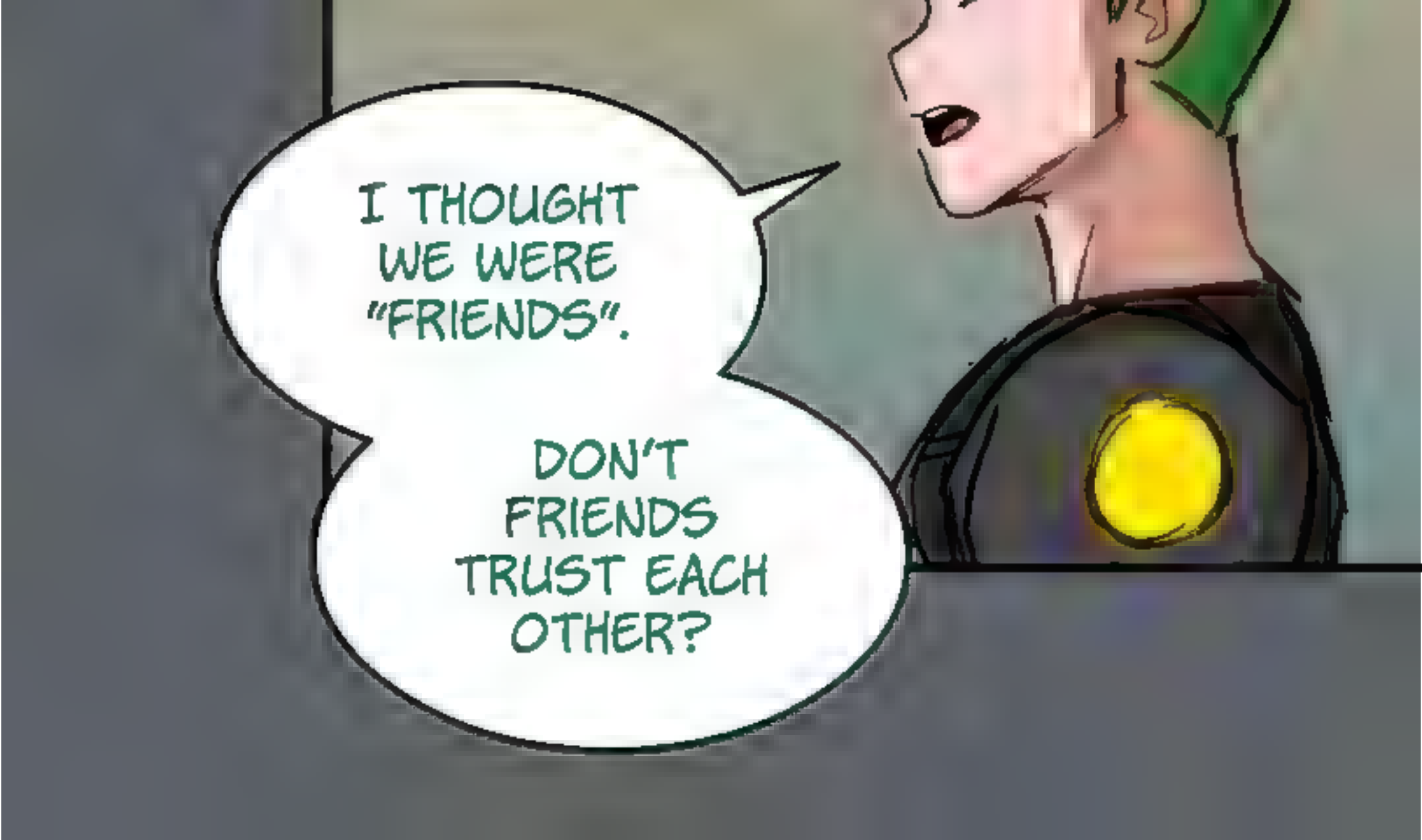
THAT IS NOT FAIR.



WHY
NOT?



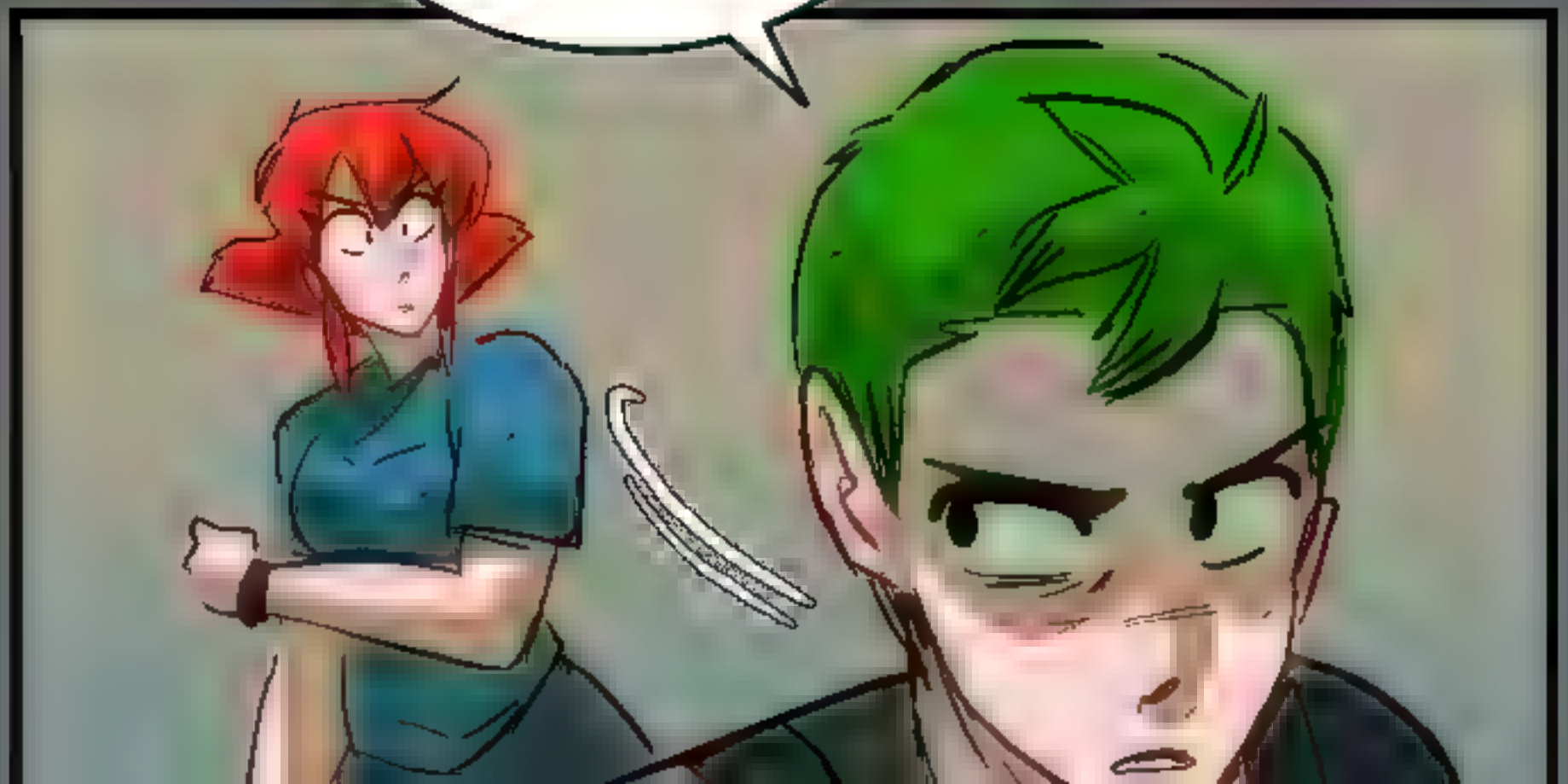
WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECT OURSELVES.


I THOUGHT WE WERE "FRIENDS".
DON'T FRIENDS TRUST EACH OTHER?

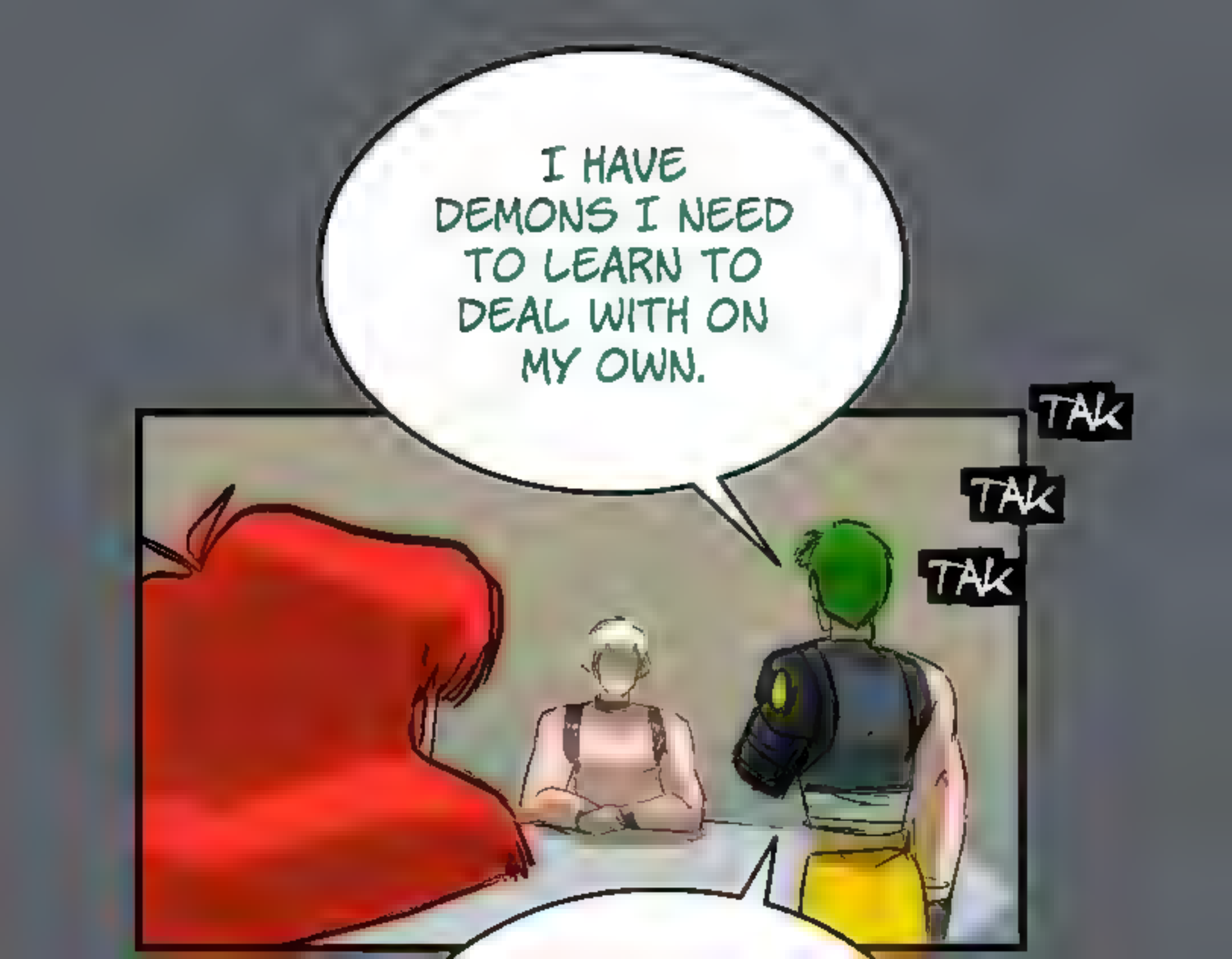
EVEN IF
I WANT TO
TRUST YE, I CAN
NOT PUT THE LIVES
OF OTHERS AT
STAKE!

DESPITE WHAT EVERYONE TOLD ME ABOUT YE, I WENT OUT ON A LIMB BEFORE.
MY NAIVETY NEARLY GOT ME *AND* SYLVIA KILLED!

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.



TRUSTING ME WOULD BE FOOLISH.


I HAVE DEMONS I NEED TO LEARN TO DEAL WITH ON MY OWN.
TAK
TAK
TAK

AND I
WON'T GET THE
CHANCE TO DO THAT
AS A MUZZLED DOG
IN THE ROOM OF
SWORDS.

SO
LET'S JUST GO
OUR SEPARATE
WAYS.

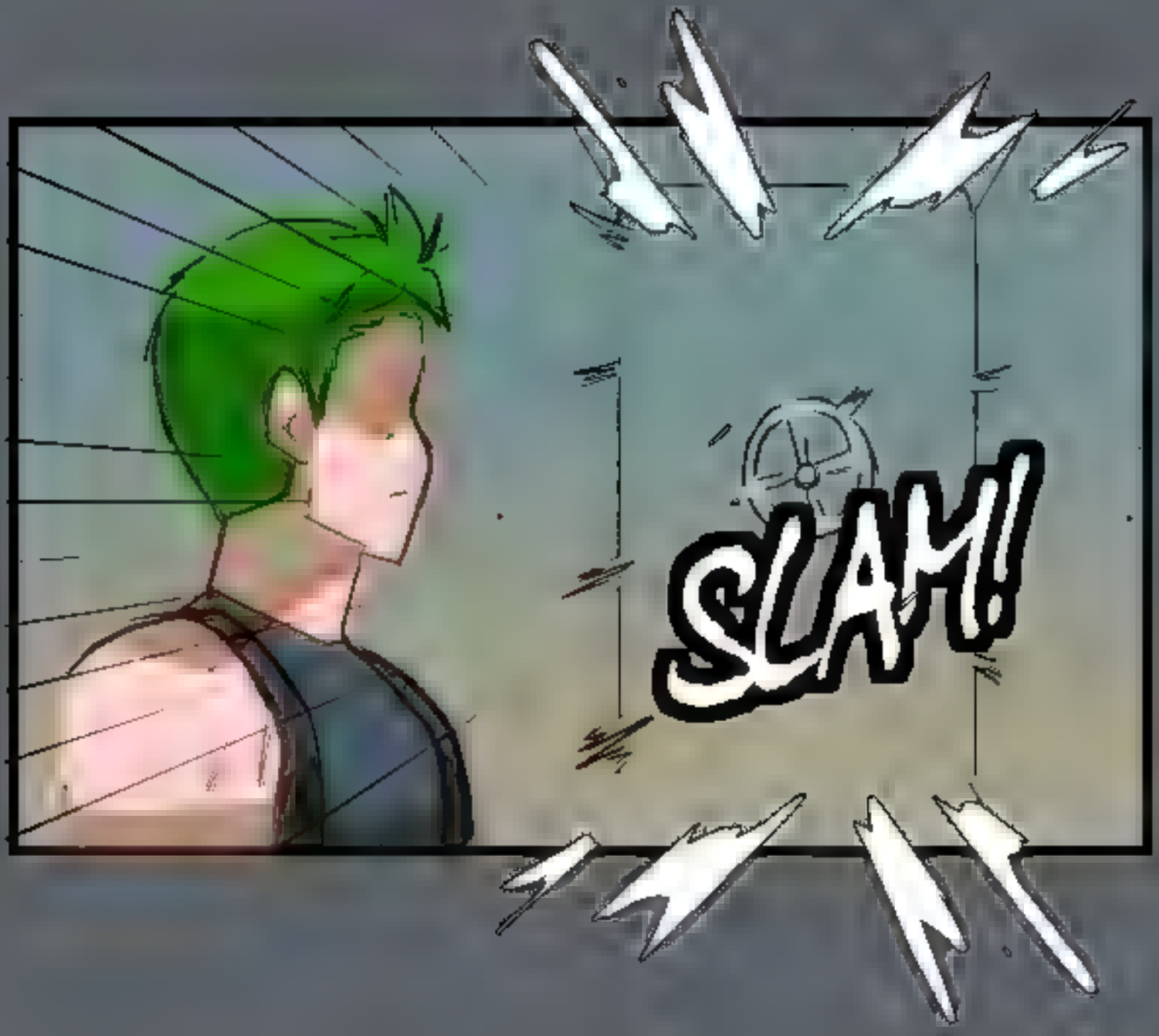
SIT
I'LL GIVE THE ORDER TO SEND YOU BACK.
BUT I'M STAYING HERE.

SO BE IT.

INNER DEMONS OR NO, I AT LEAST THOUGHT YE WERE BRAVE.
NOW I SEE I WAS MISTAKEN.

OPEN

SEE
THEE LATER!


SLAM!

SHE KNOWS WE'RE STILL UNDER WATER, RIGHT?

- END OF CHAPTER 86-

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